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PREPARATIONS FOR THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Position papers prepared for submission to the Commission on Sustainable Development by the small island developing States in the Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and Atlantic regions and by the Pacific Island Countries

Note by the Executive Director

1. At the request of the Governments concerned, the Executive Director has the honour to circulate herewith, for the information of participants in the nineteenth session of the Governing Council:

(a) The Valetta Declaration on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States in the Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and Atlantic (IMA-SIDS), adopted 27 November 1998, together with the IMA-SIDS postition paper submitted to the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (annex I);

(b) The Ministerial Statement of the Roundtable of Pacific Island Ministers on Sustainable Development, adopted at Auckland, New Zealand, on 17 November, together with the Pacific Island Countries' contribution to the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

2. The Valetta Declaration and the IMA-SIDS position paper were adopted in English and French, while the Ministerial Statement of the Roundtable of Pacific Island Ministers and the Pacific Island Countries' contribution to the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development are available in English only.

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* UNEP/GC.20/1.

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Annex I

THE VALLETTA DECLARATION ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND STATES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, MEDITERRANEAN AND ATLANTIC

Valletta, Malta, 27 November 1998

We, the Ministers from the small island developing states in the Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and Atlantic regions (IMA-SIDS), participating in the meeting on the sustainable development our countries;

Having met in Valletta on the 27 November 1998

Being concerned about the special problems faced by our small island developing states due especially to their economic fragilities and environmental vulnerabilities;

Recalling:

1. that in Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, emanating from the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, it is asserted that small island developing states are a special case both for environment and development, and that they face special challenges in planning and implementing sustainable development;

2. that the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS Programme of Action), approved during the 1994 UN Global Conference held in Barbados, identified the priority areas for action to address the special challenges faced by SIDS;

3. that during the Barbados Global Conference and in many subsequent international fora on the sustainable development of SIDS, it was established that small island developing states merit special consideration in view of a number of factors, including small economic size, insularity, remoteness, proneness to natural disasters, fragile ecosystems, vulnerability to global warming, and lack of natural resources;

4. that the *ad hoc* expert group on Vulnerability Indices, which met in New York in December 1997, concluded that "as a group, SIDS are more vulnerable than other groups of developing countries";

5. that the final statement of the UNEP workshop on Water, Coastal and Marine Resources, held in Malta in December 1997, asserted that to achieve sustainable development, decision-making in SIDS should be founded on scientifically-based reference points with due consideration for the social, cultural, economic, ecological and political aspects, supported by effectively implemented regulations, and that a suitable approach towards this end would be the "Island Systems Management" which recognises the interactions and interdependent nature of the various systems on the island;

6. that the Mahe Declaration, which was approved during the meeting of African SIDS in July 1998, identified a number of priority areas for the sustainable development of African SIDS, which SIDS constitute the majority of states represented at the present Conference;

Affirm that:

1. we are committed to the principles embodied in Agenda 21 and the SIDS Programme of Action, which we consider to be the best framework within which sustainable development can be operationalised, at the national, regional and international levels;

2. we recognise that the priority areas identified in the African SIDS Programme of Action, adopted during the Ministerial Meeting of African SIDS held in Seychelles in July 1998, are also relevant to IMA-SIDS;

3. we recognise also that good management should be scientifically-based, that policies intended to promote sustainable development should take into account the social, cultural, economic, ecological and political dimension of development, and that in a small territory all systems are interrelated and interdependent;

4. we recognise further that there are important advantages associated with the adoption of a co-ordinated approach across states, especially with regard to polices and measures which have inter-country causes and effects, and that these advantages arise *inter alia* as a result of better utilisation of human resources, reaping of economies of scale, and joint action to meet common challenges;

5. in addition, we recognise that co-ordinated approaches between SIDS in international fora, strengthen the bargaining power of SIDS in negotiations with donor countries and international organisations;

6. we consider that the donors' and SIDS representatives roundtable and the seventh session of the Commission for Sustainable Development, scheduled for 1999, are events of major importance for SIDS and could make significant contributions towards the attainment of the objectives of the UNCED (1992) and the 1994 Global Conference for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

7. we recognise the importance of the two-day special session of the General Assembly to be held in New York in September 1999, for a full and comprehensive review and appraisal of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Islands Developing States.

Declare that we will:

At the national level:

1. further promote an awareness, amongst our people, of the principles embodied in Agenda 21 and SIDS Programme of Action with regard to sustainable development, and encourage information flows for this purpose, and that towards this end we shall strive to as much as possible enlist the support of all stakeholders, at every level of society, in our respective country;

2. try to minimise the negative environmental impacts, including pollution and generation of waste, emanating from economic activities such as tourism, manufacturing, agriculture, and mining and to maximise sustainable practices which in the long run will be conducive towards environmental as well as economic well being;

3. undertake to promote science and technology, with the aim of developing and increasing the use of environmentally friendly and clean technologies, foster scientific understanding, and, when possible, integrate traditional knowledge with contemporary advancements.

4. promote human resources development, recognising that human beings should take centre stage in sustainable development policies and measures, by, amongst other things, strengthening the national educational and training facilities;

5. strive develop capacity building to address the issues of concern to IMA-SIDS.

6. take steps to upgrade our environmental legislation and strengthen its enforcement, recognising that sustainable development is not likely to be attained by economic instruments alone, and recognising also that such legislation should have the support and involvement of all social groups, including women, youth, senior citizens, NGOs and other stakeholders.

7. improve our monitoring and reporting processes, through the development of appropriate tools such as indicators, so as to assess the extent to which our country is abiding with the principles embodied in Agenda 21 and the SIDS Programme of Action.

At the regional level :

1. develop operational methods of promoting regional co-operation, through appropriate institutions, including the establishment of IMA-SIDS' focal points in each country and formulate regional programme and strategies, taking into account the strengths and weaknesses of each member state in the region;

2. establish organisational set-ups to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action, with the aim of taking common approaches in regional matters and to conduct joint representation at regional and international fora;

3. promote regional technical co-operation, by encouraging the formation of networks, exchange of information, involving research institutes and Universities, and facilitating the movement of scientists and other experts between the SIDS in the region;

4. promote increased co-operation in civil aviation, shipping and telecommunications between SIDS in the region;

5. support and seek cooperation with regional pollution prevention and with action programmes for the environment;

6. support joint marketing and training programmes in economic areas of interest to SIDS in the region, particularly tourism;

At the international level:

1. support the endeavour of intergovernmental organisations dealing with climate change and sea level rise;

2. support AOSIS in its important role in formulating a collective position for SIDS in international fora, in particular those where international instruments are negotiated;

3. act in a co-ordinated manner and take collective positions in international fora which have a major impact on economic well-being of SIDS, including the WTO and the World Bank;

4. support the development of SIDSnet, which we consider to be an important source of information for the promotion and monitoring of sustainable development;

5. support the construction of a vulnerability index, which we consider to be an important tool for highlighting the fact that SIDS merit special consideration in view of their exposure to forces outside their control, hindering their sustainable development, and acknowledge the important role that Malta has played in the development of the Vulnerability Index;

We declare also that

- we shall do our best to implement the national actions, policies and measures listed in the SIDS Programme of Action, keeping in mind that both Agenda 21 and the SIDS Programme of Action state that governments will be primarily responsible for the implementation of the

polices and measures to promote their sustainable development, acknowledging, at the same time, that we will be constrained in implementing these challenges without the cooperation and assistance of the international community;

Call upon:

1. the UN Commission for Sustainable Development to take cognisance of the IMA-SIDS position paper approved at the Malta conference on 27 November 1998, and request the Commission to urge donor countries and UN organs to facilitate its implementation;

2. the United Nations and its organs, including UNCTAD, UNDP and UNEP to continue providing policy guidelines, organising capacity building, and carry out research and analyses for the promotion of sustainable development of SIDS, and where appropriate to strengthen their SIDS focal points, established in line with article 128 of the SIDS Programme of Action.

3. the international community to supplement the national and regional efforts by effective financial support, to, amongst other things, facilitate our ability to build the infrastructure, enhance human and institutional capacity building, and facilitate transfer of environmentally sound technologies;

4. international economic and trade organisations, such as the World Bank and WTO, to take account of the special disabilities of SIDS and of the negative effects on SIDS arising from the processes of trade liberalisation and globalisation, especially those associated with the removal of preferential trade arrangements;

The Valletta Declaration

Signed at Valletta, Malta, on 27 November 1998, on behalf of the Governments:

Mr Khalid M. FAKHRO
State of Bahrain

José António PINTO MONTEIRO
Republic of Cape Verde

Youssouf HAMADI
Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros

Antonis ANTONIOU
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ALPHONSE
Republic of Madagascar

Francis ZAMMIT DIMECH
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Jogeeswar SEEWOOBADUTH
Republic of Mauritius

Martinho TAVARES
Democratic Republic of
Sao Tomé and Príncipe

Alain BUTLER-PAYETTE
Republic of Seychelles

IMA-SIDS POSITION PAPER SUBMITTED TO THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

PREAMBLE

The small Islands Developing States of the Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and Atlantic (IMA-SIDS) consisting of eleven island states dispersed over 3 regions, have concerted in the process for the preparation of this submission to the CSD7.

This submission focuses on sustainable development issues pertaining to the IMA-SIDS. It shows that IMA-SIDS are not a homogenous island group, but at the same time share common problems.

IMA-SIDS affirm their commitment to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Barbados Programme of Action.

However, IMA-SIDS are experiencing huge constraints for numerous reasons including lack of resources, both human and financial, to implement these programmes. These difficulties are exacerbated by the fact that they are at a higher risk of sea level rise arising climate change, and subject to recurring national disasters such as hurricanes, drought, earthquakes, and tidal waves. In addition many of them are far from the main commercial centres.

This document highlights the main priority areas of concern to IMA-SIDS and propose a number of actions that could be taken in this regard. It covers:

- the main regional problems;
- the cross-cutting issues;
- the action required by the UN system.

THE MAIN REGIONAL PROBLEMS

1. Oceans / Seas

IMA-SIDS, by their very nature, enjoy a very large EEZ in relation to their land mass, but they lack the capacity, to assess and manage this vast resource.

CSD is requested to call for:

- Support of programmes to assess the impact of planning and development on the coastal environment, including wetlands, coral reefs habitats and the Exclusive Economic Zones, of IMA-SIDS;

- Development of a methodology or guidelines in a manual for sound practices and techniques suitable for IMA-SIDS, for achieving the integrated management of the coastal and offshore marine development;
- Strengthening of national capacity to improve coastal zone management and to upgrade the ability to sustainably manage the oceans in the EEZ;
- Enhancement of conservation and management of Exclusive Economic Zone resources;
- Formulation of policies and measures to address fisheries needs as an essential resources of food supplies for island population and for economic development.
- Support data collection and preparation of documentation for extending the EEZ when possible

2. Tourism

Tourism constitutes a major activity for generating economic growth, employment and foreign exchange earnings in the majority of IMA-SIDS. Since environmental and social carrying capacities of SIDS tend to be limited, tourism, if not properly planned and managed, may have negative social and environmental impacts. Therefore sustainable tourism polices and measures are essential.

CSD is requested to call for:

- Promotion of the concept of sustainable tourism, incorporating this principle in legislative and educational schemes;
- Enhancement of the value-added of tourism, as a major source of income in SIDS;
- Provision of financial support to implement programmes conducive towards sustainable tourism policies and measures;
- Assistance for those IMA-SIDS having an underdeveloped tourism sector, and wishing to build their tourism infrastructure and marketing capacities.

3. Waste Management

Because of the small land area, coupled with the high population density, waste management is a major issue for IMA-SIDS.

In this context, IMA-SIDS is requested to call for

- Support for the putting in place a comprehensive waste management programme;
- Development and implementation of an appropriate institutional and legislative framework.

4. Freshwater Resources

IMA-SIDS face constant shortage and/or deteriorating quality of freshwater resources with negative impacts on human health and agricultural production.

The CSD is requested to call for;

- Support SIDS' efforts to rehabilitate watersheds, re-afforestation and the putting into place a system for the sustainable use and development of freshwater resources;

- A re-focus financial assistance programme by donor countries to assist SIDS to take mitigating action against the impact of droughts and high water consumption rates.

5. Biodiversity

IMA-SIDS possess very rich marine and terrestrial biodiversity with a high level of endemicity. Nevertheless, this richness is endangered by strong man-made pressure on natural resources.

In this regard, IMA-SIDS solicit the support of the Commission for Sustainable Development:

- to strengthen national capacity for the planning and management of biodiversity;
- to assist in developing a financial mechanism for the conservation and appreciation of biodiversity.

6. Trade

Integrating into the world economy should lead to more efficiency and therefore to better utilisation of resources.

However SIDS are amongst the most open economies in the world and they are therefore facing the challenges of liberalisation and globalisation to a much higher degree than most larger developing states.

CSD is requested to call for:

- Support negotiations for the extension of SIDS' preferential arrangement to enable them to gain more time for restructuring of their economy, and arguing the case that SIDS merit special consideration in view of the vulnerability;
- Facilitate funding for adequate representation at WTO meetings, and the development of a common position by SIDS at the regional and international level..
- Assist in the promotion of better utilisation of resources to improve competitiveness.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

1. Financing

Increased provision of financial resources is fundamental for the implementation and monitoring of sustainable development initiatives for IMA-SIDS.

CSD is called upon to:

- Encourage donors to allocate additional Financial resources to relevant sustainable development projects and programmes;
- Improve responsiveness of the Global Environmental Fund and their allocation to assist SIDS address sustainable development issues;
- Take into account the high level of debt of certain IMA-SIDS and ensure that they benefit from debt reduction mechanisms.

2. Limitations in human resources and capacity

The small size of most IMA-SIDS, and the fact that often the only resource of significance is the human resource, calls for special attention to education and training and the development of health services.

Often training and education packages developed in larger territories do not take into account the constraints faced by SIDS where the scope for specialisation tends to be very limited, and where multi-functionality is often the best method of utilising administrators and scientists.

CSD is requested to call for:

- Promotion of sustainable development ideas into the education programmes starting from primary level;
- Introduction education in demographic factors in curricula;
- Infusion of the idea that leaders and managers need to be multi-functional due to small scale and the related limitations;
- Action to discourage undesirable habits such as taking drugs, excessive alcohol and others and support programme of community based organisations in this regards;
- Development of training of trainers schemes to foster human resource development in all its aspects.

3. Institutional weaknesses

Due to their small sizes and populations, SIDS institutions are overloaded by having to intervene in numerous activities. The achievement of sustainable development is handicapped.

CSD is requested to call for:

- Strengthening of administrative capacity to integrate economic and environmental concerns;
- Adopting inter-disciplinary approaches in planning and decision-making.
- Improving legislative and enforcement capacities.
- supporting SIDS in their attempt to improve their capacity to ratify and implement international agreements, such as UNCLOS and related protocols.

4. Infrastructure development

Insular and isolation nature of IMA-SIDS renders the improvement of their transport and communication essential. (Lack of economies of scale precludes some SIDS to be able to benefit optimum from off the shelf available technology).

CSD is requested to called upon to:

- Facilitate the development of regular and reliable transport and communications linkages;
- Encourage the development and transfer of appropriate and clean technologies for SIDS.

5. Integrated management approaches

The IMA-SIDS require an integrated approach to problem solving rather than a sectoral approach as all the ecosystems are inter-related.

CSD is therefore requested to call for:

- Promotion of 'Islands System Management" that takes into consideration the special nature of IMA-SIDS.
- Facilitate information flows within national and regional bureaucracies and galvanize decision-making processes

6. Vulnerability index

Due to the fragility of the ecosystems and severity of recurring natural disasters, composite vulnerability indices have to be developed for effective pursuit of sustainable development goals.

CSD is requested to call for:

- supporting ongoing work on the economic and ecological vulnerability Index and promote the construction of a composite index, using methods which do not complicate the issue and which as much as possible utilise ready and available data, keeping in mind that complicated methods may render the index as non-operational, and that statistical data which is very difficult or impossible to obtain will render the whole exercise useless.

ACTION REQUIRED BY THE UN SYSTEM

Improving UN coordination

Effective implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and Agenda 21 will require the UN system to make a more effective use of its resources, to mobilise the necessary human technical and financial resources and to improve co-ordination mechanisms for the focused and harmonised delivery of priorities relevant to IMA-SIDS, related to Agenda 21 and the Barbados Programme of Action.

Noting that up to now, CSD has not directly intervened in the implementation of these programmes, IMA-SIDS urge CSD to assist in improving UN co-ordination in the implementation of these programmes.

CSD is requested to call for:

- Development of new mechanisms to implement decisions of the CSD, given that as things stand at the moment, has no power to direct the mandate of the UN organs to implement the parts of the SIDS PoA;
- Improvement of the linkages between the different UN organs in matters related to the SIDS PoA;
- Development of performance indicators to assess the extent to which the UN organs are delivering;

- Support for mechanisms to develop cooperative schemes between major stakeholders including civil society and private business in the planning, coordination and implementation of measures which are conducive to sustainable development in SIDS;
- Support for regional and national research centres which focus on sustainable development and which can produce scientific work in parallel and in cooperation with UN organs;
- Support for networking schemes with the aim of collecting and disseminating data to those concerned with the sustainable development of SIDS.

Annex II

Roundtable of Pacific Island Ministers on Sustainable Development
Ministerial Statement

Ministers of Australia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu, along with representatives of American Samoa, Fiji, Guam, Nauru and Wallis and Futuna, met in Auckland, New Zealand, 17 November 1998, to consider sustainable development issues and a Pacific Island submission to the 7th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The submission had been developed at a workshop in Apia, 11-13 November 1998, to discuss Pacific input to CSD7. The Apia workshop was attended by representatives of governments, regional organisations, the UN system, the private sector and NGOs.

The 27th South Pacific Forum in Majuro, 1996, had called for more rapid progress on economic reform and development, and had agreed on the need for sustainable management of natural resources. This was reflected in the 1997-2000 SPREP Action Plan, agreed by Environment Ministers in November 1996, based on a new and strategic approach which required the integration of environmental considerations into development activities.

Ministers expressed satisfaction in the progress, since their meeting in Tonga 1996, to integrate environmental issues and the development agenda of the FEMM; progress to implement the SPREP Action Plan; the successful completion of the 1997 Year of the Coral Reef; further support for the protection of sea turtles; positive steps taken to review Agenda 21 and promote its implementation at the UNGA Special Session in 1997.

The submission to CSD7 calls for greater consistency on the part of the UN system and a higher rate of implementation of CSD recommendations by UN implementing agencies. It also calls for UN implementing agencies to work more closely with regional and sub-regional agencies in order to make more effective use of regional agreements and organisations in the Pacific.

The Roundtable commended the development of the submission, agreed to its broad content and that it should further include references to:

- promote economic development that respects regional differences, conserves natural resources and the environment, and that also takes into account the social and cultural impacts;

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- promote improved coordination at regional and international levels;

- call for timetables to implement the specific recommendations of the submission to CSD;

- highlight the continuing need to build capacity and the implications of capacity constraints for meeting reporting obligations and the development of plans and policies necessary to underpin su. inable development;

- highlight national commitment and the substantial and ongoing progress to implement sustainable development in Pacific Island States;

- promote innovative solutions to sustainable development through partnerships and the involvement of local communities, non-government organisations and the private sector;

- highlight examples of significant challenges facing island countries and actions by the international community to support the development of innovative national and regional solutions;

- emphasise the critical importance of steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the role island countries are playing to promote solutions at the international level, including national efforts to improve energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy resources.

Ministers agreed to a process of refinement and endorsement of the submission through the Forum Officials Committee. They further agreed to take opportunities such as this Roundtable to exchange views on continuing progress and to collectively address their common aspirations for sustainable development in the region.

Auckland, New Zealand, 17 November, 1998

Pacific Island Countries'
Submission to the 7th Session of the
Commission on Sustainable Development

Preamble

Pacific island countries continue to share a common aspiration for economic development and improved living standards while at the same time remain strongly committed to conserving the natural and cultural heritage upon which their future depends. This submission to the Seventh Session of the Commission on Sustainable development aims to build on agreements already reached by Pacific island countries and the international community concerning the sustainable development of small island developing States; it provides a measure of progress towards sustainable development in this region and identifies where special attention is required to further advance the implementation of sustainable development.

Regional overview

In 1996 the South Pacific Forum adopted an Economic Action Plan to stimulate investment and job creation. Economic and public sector reform measures being adopted include implementing trade and investment policies that encourage the diversification of export markets and sources of investment; reviewing exchange rate management; improving management of capital assets; improving the business climate; achieving free and open trade and investment; addressing multilateral trade issues; and, promoting sustainable tourism development.

Economic reform in the region comes at a time when countries are also concerned about their vulnerability to a wide range of economic and environmental factors, such as climate change. They are also concerned about the impacts of development on community cohesion and the natural resources upon which both cash and subsistence economies depend. The Forum Leaders and Economic Ministers therefore are fully aware of the need to implement economic policies which fully respects the differing natural resources and environment endowment of the region, and which takes into account the social and cultural impacts. Pacific leaders have recognised the important links between environment and development and stated clearly that *development must be both economically and ecologically sound*[1]. This had been recommended by Environment Ministers in 1996 and is now being implemented at the national level and at the regional level through the Forum process. As an example, the Forum Economic Ministers in July this year

[1] Forum Communique (1993). Forum Secretariat.

agreed to adopt an integrated policy framework (attached as Annex 2) for promoting the sustainable development of ~~the~~ tourism.

It is also intended that economic reform will mobilise resources that will further advance sustainable development in this region but it is recognised that this transition will require new partnerships and the commitment and support of all stakeholders and the international community.

At the regional level the Pacific's regional organisations are working through the South pacific Organisations Coordinating Committee (SPOCC) regional Development Strategy process to develop a sustainable development framework which incorporates the key linkages between the various development sectors. Sustainable management of these sectors, including agriculture, health and marine resources, is being actively promoted through the SPOCC working groups.

Progress to implement sustainable development

In 1996, the region submitted a report to CSD4 on activities to implement the Barbados Programme of Action. Since this time, considerable effort at a national level has been complemented by collective regional action to fulfill commitments made to the blueprints for sustainable development - Agenda 21 and the Barbados Programme of Action. Particular effort has been made to build capacity, develop effective policy and plans, better coordinate national and regional action, take stock of the regions environment and natural resources, and reform national and regional arrangements where necessary. Examples of commitment and progress include, at the national level the formulation and implementation of National Environmental Management Strategies, the establishment of environment units, and the development of environmental legislation and policies. Examples at the regional level include the work of SPREP, the progress in integrating environment and other social concerns in the regions economic and public sector reform programmes through the FEMM, as well as the South Pacific Organisations Coordinating Committee (SPOCC) Regional Development Strategy and working groups on marine resources and tourism. Further example are contained in Annex 1.

Although considerable investment has been made to implement sustainable development there are gaps and areas where implementation has been slow. It is not useful to reiterate the priorities or detail contained in a wide variety of strategies and plans that have been developed since. Instead, the following sections present the key actions to:

- improve implementation of Agenda 21 and the Barbados Programme of Action
- implement regional priorities for the protection of oceans and seas
- support the development of sustainable tourism

These will guide the preparations for the review of the Barbados Programme of Action and the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Special Session on the sustainable development of small island developing States that provides an important opportunity to SIDS to define their future.

Priorities for Further Action

Sustainable development remains a particular concern in the South Pacific where many island countries and territories have fragile environment, small land areas and limited natural resources or ability to attract tourists for a significant part of their national income. Large EEZs while having the potential for economic benefits also require a level of management beyond the present resources available to these countries.

Given this development challenge, the region reaffirms the importance and integrity of the Barbados Programme of Action as the blueprint for sustainable development of small island developing States adopted by the 50th Session of the UNGA.

KEY CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES
Improving UN Coordination

Effective implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and Agenda 21 will require the UN System to make a more effective use of resources, to mobilise the necessary human technical and financial resources and to improve coordination mechanisms for the focused and harmonised delivery of priorities relevant to Pacific SIDS reflected in Agenda 21 and the Barbados Programme of Action. CSD has noted implementation in part only and has called for further action. The Pacific notes that CSD has no power to direct and is concerned that the governing bodies and work programmes of UN system agencies have their own mandates, which do not necessarily reflect the recommendations of the CSD on the timely implementation of the BPOA and provisions in Agenda 21 applying to oceans and SIDS. The CSD is requested to call for:

- improving mechanisms for the implementation of priority programmes and goals in a consistent and mutually reinforcing manner within the UN system. For example:
  - ⇒ increased operational effectiveness of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and related and subsidiary committees, such as the Inter Agency Committee on Sustainable Development;
  - ⇒ strengthening the operational effectiveness of the UNDP Resident Coordinators with respect to inter-agency cooperation;
  - ⇒ improving the linkages between central offices of the UNDP and country offices in the Pacific;
  - ⇒ proposing new mechanisms to improve the implementation of CSD decisions;

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- improved alignment of UN System activities with existing regional organisations' strategies, work plans and coordination mechanisms as these are formatted and scutinised by and reflect the collected will of individual Pacific states. They also offer an umbrella under which UN System agencies can better target programmes and activities to address clearly identified regional and individual states needs in a consistent, mutually reinforcing manner. UN system organizations should liaise with SPREP on environment. Forum Secretariat in economic and trade and investment issues, FFA on offshore fisheries.

- the development of improved performance indicators including timeframes for measuring the implementation of international agreements and decisions by UN System agencies.

New partnerships and participation

Effective partnerships among all stakeholders, and in particular local communities, NGOs and the private sector, will be essential for sustainable development. The CSD is requested to call for:

- support to develop specific mechanisms to facilitate the development of these partnerships for the coordination of sustainable development in small island developing States (eg., national summits and other forms of multistakholder consultative mechanisms)

Implementing multi-lateral agreements

There has been only partial implementation of relevant regional and global agreements and conventions in the Pacific such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The most notable international dimension of this problem has been that UN agencies do not always use existing regional regimes and protocols to guide their activities, and/or have not taken all the steps necessary to implement the Agenda 21 or Barbados Programme of Action decisions applying to them. The CSD is requested to call for:

- UN agencies and members to more explicitly use Pacific conventions and protocols as the umbrella for programme design and should ensure they co-ordinate their programmes with existing regional conventions and other mechanisms, declarations and policy statements. Examples needed....

- UN system agencies and members should fulfil their commitments to assist SIDS build the capacity necessary to consider ratification and to implement relevant conventions and protocols;

- support for the use of sub-regional consultations;

- promote accession to UNCLOS and the coordinated implementation of the provisions particularly those relevant to the region and SIDS.

Building capacity through education, training and awareness raising

In spite of considerable progress, there remains inadequate skills training, and basic and higher education opportunities for sustainable development in Pacific island countries. Current efforts at capacity building are insufficient and the resources needed to improve this capacity are limited. Further support for capacity building of Pacific island nationals will need to build on the successes of the past. Environmental concerns and the achievement of sustainable development require the active contribution of the community through the awareness of issues and how they can be addressed. The CSD is requested to call for:

- support for the implementation of the region's human resource development strategies, education for sustainable development and context-sensitive gender balance in the delivery of all education and public awareness programmes;

- support for bringing into operation sustainable development management concepts within sectoral management agencies (eg., freshwater management and community-based inshore fisheries management)

- greater use of traditional and indigenous skills training and awareness raising approaches and the use of local languages in the development and presentation of resource material;

- the development of partnerships that will increase the skills of the private sector (in particular technical and management skills) and re-invigorate community involvement in education, training and awareness programmes;

- support for regional training and scientific research centres (in particular scientific research and database development for offshore fisheries and also centres of excellence in tourism and sustainable development at USP).

Strengthening links between environment and integrated development

Decisions about resource allocation in the short term are expected to be made on a sector by sector basis. There is an ongoing need to build upon efforts to integrate environment and development within Pacific island countries. Efforts to implement economic and public sector reform, along with the work of the South Pacific Organisations Coordinating Committee, provide opportunities to do this. Ideally this integration would continue to promote a holistic approach to island development to make most effective use of the capacity within countries and regionally. The CSD is requested to call for:

- support for integrating sectoral priorities that will assist the establishment and implementation of frameworks for sustainable island development as demonstrated through the development of the SPOCC Regional Development Strategy;

- support in the short term for the integration of environmental considerations within the plans and programmes of key sectors and line ministries.

Developing benchmarks and information for sustainable development

Basic information that establishes baselines or benchmarks and ongoing systems for monitoring and assessment of key indicators that can be used to assist decision making and measure progress to implement sustainable development are essential as are effective communications and networking systems to share that information. The CSD is requested to call for:

- support national and regional efforts to collect, store and analyse basic information and to develop cost effective communications and networking systems to distribute this information to all stakeholders, in particular, civil society and the private sector;

- support the efforts of UNEP and its regional seas programmes in the area of environmental assessment and reporting;

- rapid implementation of the clearinghouse mechanisms for the Convention on Biodiversity, the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Activities, within the Pacific region and through existing regional organisation.

Integrating health, population and development

The implementation of sustainable development programmes rarely make the explicit links between health, population and the environment. The region faces a wide range of population and health issues which include, in some countries, high rates of population growth, increased urbanisation and the resultant unsustainable use of resources. Addressing these issues requires addressing the issue of gender. The region therefore reaffirms its commitment to the Port Vila (Population) and Yanuca Island Declarations and Rarotonga Agreement (Healthy Islands). The CSD is requested to call for:

- support for the integration of population and health with environment and development planning and for the regions efforts to implement the CEDAW Convention.

Vulnerability Index

The need for composite vulnerability index of economic as well as ecological/environmental parameters was highlighted in the Barbados Programme of Action. The 1998 South Pacific Forum agreed the index should be included among criteria for determining Least Developed Country status and for deciding eligibility for concessional aid and trade treatment. Pacific region is now engaged in the development of the ecological aspects of a vulnerability index and will contribute to efforts of UNDP, the World Bank and Commonwealth Secretariat to development a composite vulnerability index. The CSD is requested to call for:

- UN System agencies to assign the necessary resources to support work in the region to complete the environmental vulnerability index;

- support to ensure work on a composite index to be completed at the international level by the year 2000.

Financial resources

As outlined in the Barbados Programme of Action adequate resources will be required at the national level to effectively integrate environment and development. This is being addressed as part of the region's economic reform and development agenda. For Pacific island countries, official development assistance remains a major source of external funding. To maximize the benefits, the fullest possible coordination among donors at international, national and regional levels is essential.

At the international level, in accordance with paragraphs 91-95 of the Barbados Programme of Action, the provision of financial resources will be required to reflect the increased significance attached to sustainable development and the need to take account of environmental and social dimensions of ongoing economic reforms. The responsiveness of the GEF and the allocation of financial resources to assist Pacific island countries address sustainable development issues of global benefit is welcomed.

SECTORAL PRIORITIES

Improving management of marine resources

Marine resources are a cornerstone for the sustainable social and economic development of the Pacific Island peoples. In many Pacific island countries inshore fisheries are declining from over exploitation and environmental degradation and the establishment of effective management is a priority to maintain or restore maximum sustainable yields. Aquaculture, as an alternative activity, is still at a preliminary stage of economic development in most Pacific island countries, but is of enormous future significance. For environmentally sound aquaculture to realise its full potential to the economies of Pacific island countries in a sustainable way will require a considerable degree of international support. Pacific island countries have endorsed a strategy to harness and prioritise such support at the regional institutional level.

Sustainable development issues are different for offshore resources. Access by distant water fishing nations (DWFN) to these resources creates risks for sustainability if management measures are not in place. Among the range of measures implemented by Pacific island countries to support management efforts are the regional vessel register, vessel monitoring system, and

minimum terms and conditions of access which require statistical reports necessary for monitoring the sustainability of tuna fisheries. Parallel with developments at the national level, multilateral high level consultations between Forum countries, Pacific island territories and DWFNs on conservation and management of the tuna resources are progressing, consistent with obligations under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the UN Implementing Agreement. The consultative process is now at a critical stage and support for this process is a high priority. Pacific island countries require support to ensure sustainable development of their marine resources which is the key to the sustainability of the Pacific Island peoples.

In relation to offshore fisheries, the CSD is requested to call for the international community to support:

- scientific research and database development
- Pacific island countries obtain increased access fees
- the promotion, assessment and monitoring of commercial investment in catching, processing and marketing to increase ownership and management or commercial fisheries activities by islanders and national activities
- greater regional coordination in management and monitoring, control and surveillance (VMS) and enforcement
- the development and maintenance of a legal framework for sustainable fisheries management
- the development of management plans and policies

In relation to coastal resources, the CSD is requested to call for international community to support SIDS efforts in sustainable use and conservation of reefs and marine resources through:

- community based conservation and management
- alternative livelihoods such as aquaculture and ecotourism
- post harvest management
- integrated management
- research and transfer of technology to assess the impact of exploration and exploitation of non-living resources on the coastal marine environment
- further implementation of Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan as part of the International Coral Reef Initiative.

Exploitation of deep sea minerals offers potential benefits to some economies. Exploration licenses covering more than five thousand square kilometers have been granted and more are under consideration. The CSD is requested to call for:

- support from the international community to assist national and regional efforts to assess resource information and to develop appropriate policies and legislative regimes.

Minimising pollution

Contamination of groundwater, freshwater and the marine environment, increasing quantities of solid waste, the lack of controls on chemicals imported into the region and the lack of capacity to

manage chemicals are of rapidly increasing concern for Pacific island countries. In addition to land based activities, the region's coastal and marine resources are threatened by introduced marine species, ship wrecks and marine spills (oil, chemicals and other hazardous materials), ships' waste (oil, sewage, chemicals and garbage), antifouling paints on vessels, the transport of nuclear materials and the physical impacts and pollution from dredging, sand extraction and sea-bed mining. To assist the region address these concerns the CSD is requested to call for:

- urgent implementation of the provisions under existing international agreements, in particular the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution (GPA) and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution From Ships (MARPOL);

- support implementation and compliance with relevant international and regional conventions (e.g. Basel and Waigani) and to assist participation by Pacific island countries in international debate and discussion of pollution and waste management issues;

- support the assessment of options for regional waste management and minimisation.

Sustainable Tourism

As part of the economic reform and development agenda tourism has been highlighted as having significant economic potential for the region. Recognising the social and environmental impacts of tourism that can be both positive and negative, Forum Economic Ministers have agreed to specific guidelines for tourism development to ensure investment in this important sector is sustainable. These are contained in Annex 2. The Pacific also recognises the importance of the 9 Goals for Governments highlighted in Agenda 21 of the Travel & Tourism (WTO/WTTC) and also the Private Sector Priorities. Some initiatives have been undertaken at the regional level (TCSP) and national levels to enhance sustainable management practices targeted at the private sector which places value on environmental and economic decisions. The CSD is therefore requested to call for support from the international community for:

- regional and national environmental audits for determining carrying capacity of natural resources and including social and cultural implications of tourism development.

- human resource development at all levels of tourism to build institutional capacity, create frameworks conducive to the development of Small Management Enterprises, and improve the capacity to utilise modern technologies.

- partnerships for sustainable tourism to effectively conserve and utilise limited resources and that involve the private sector based on consumer and market demand, development of community based initiatives, and support for destination marketing, and that utilise the three unique selling points in of Pacific tourism – People, Culture, Environment

Freshwater

Freshwater is essential to human existence and a major requirement in agricultural and other production systems. Many Pacific Islands have no significant supply of surface water and extremely limited and fragile groundwater resources. It follows that the conservation and management of groundwater and the collection and storage of rainwater are critical to sustaining human settlements in these areas. Recent droughts in the region linked to changing climatic patterns have highlighted this as a priority in the region. The CSD is requested to call for:

- coordination and refocusing of aid programmes and project design to assist SIDS to develop water management capacity and to implement projects to improve the environmental sustainability of water supply and usage consistent with regional priorities

- co-operation with existing regional organisations in the development of water-related programmes and technologies

Conservation of Biological Resources

The Pacific region is an important centre of biological diversity. Maintaining the region's biological diversity in both marine and terrestrial environments is critically important for ecologically sustainable development both in the region and throughout the world. Given the special characteristics of land tenure and resource ownership in Pacific island countries, which in many cases extends to coastal and inshore areas, the successful protection and management of natural areas depends on the full participation and active support of the local communities. In support of the recently revised Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the South Pacific, the CSD is requested to call for:

- support for PIC efforts to implement Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans, the work programme of the Jakarta Mandate, and other obligations under the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD).

Energy resources

Energy is a critical component for SIDS economic growth and quality of life, yet PICS are heavily dependent on fossil fuel based systems of energy generation that are environmentally and economically unsustainable and not equitably available to remote populations. This dependency makes them vulnerable to increased costs and vagaries of supply which slows the sustainable development of PICS, particularly in rural areas.

SIDS are committed to meet obligations under the UNFCCC and while their contribution to global concentrations is minimal and they are not required under the convention to reduce their GHG emissions, they are prepared to do what they can. The CSD is therefore requested to call on support from the international community to assist PICS to:

- Access and coordinate donor funding support for priority regional renewable energy initiatives to avoid duplication and achieve economies of scale;

- Access and develop human resources for the planning and sustainable management needs of a regional renewable energy sector;

- Develop mechanisms to encourage R&D and private sector investment in priority renewable energy projects, such as hybrid energy schemes and Energy Service companies; and

- Effectively address climate change threats to the future survival of a number of Pacific SIDS by reducing GHG emissions.

ANNEX 1

Progress to implement sustainable development

Chapter of Barbados Programme of Action	Regional Initiative
Climate change and sea level rise	• Capacity building to meet reporting obligations under the UNFCCC • Sea level rise monitoring programme
Natural and environmental disasters	• Strengthening of meteorological capacity, introduction of EMWIN and tropical cyclone warning upgrade
Management of wastes	• Development of PACPOL • Assessment of persistent organic pollutants
Coastal & marine resources	• International Waters Strategic Action Program • Multi-lateral High Level Consultations covering conservation and management of the regions highly migratory fish stocks
Freshwater resources	• Establishment of the Pacific Water Association
Energy resources	• Review of the energy sector and continued development of the Pacific Power Association
Tourism resources	• Further promotion of sustainable tourism and the integration of the private sector within the Tourism Council for the South Pacific (to become the South Pacific Tourism Organisation) • Pacific centre of excellence on sustainable tourism (USP)
Biodiversity resources	• Action Strategy or the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and Roundtable process
Administrative capacity	• National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS) • Economic and public sector reform process
Regional cooperation	• Improved Coordination through a regional development strategy and working groups of the South Pacific Organisations Coordinating Committee • Subregional implementation through the establishment of subregional offices of the UN system (e.g. FAO and WMO) PT-Oceania established at USP

Transport and Telecommunications	• Regional aviation agreements • establishment of the Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association • Improved communications - connectivity is increasing in the region and SIDSNET is slowly evolving with clear benefits for the region
Human resource development	• Regional Strategy for Environmental Education • proposed Pacific Centre for Sustainable Development
Implementation monitoring and review	• Initial assessment of an Environmental Vulnerability Index

ANNEX 2

Tourism Policy Guidelines

Principles	Guidelines
Government as a catalyst	• ensure senior government officials understand the sectors economic importance and commits to its future direction • plan and document vision and industry policies • encourage the private sector to take the lead on investment and tourism product ownership management and development
Integrated approach	• incorporate tourism into a broad national strategy for economic development, social welfare, transport, infrastructure and environmental conservation • encourage participation of all tourism interest groups (i.e. private sector, non-government agencies and communities) • create an institutional framework conducive to tourism stakeholder cooperation and collaborative action • establish a transparent consistent and user friendly regime to attract foreign and domestic investment
Cultural and ecological sustainability	• understand carrying capacity of cultural and natural resources and ensure careful fit between these underlying resources and tourism product development • identify and manage key natural attractions as protected sites

Market orientation	• adopt a market led approach to developing tourism products and marketing strategies, including clarifying who are your customers and competitors • collaborate with other FICs on tasks and issues which can be more efficiently and effectively addressed on a regional basis
Training and education	• raise awareness of the potential benefits of tourism across society • support basic education as a basis for a skilled tourism workforce • support creative strategies for encouraging village based tourism • support management and supervisory training for nationals • encourage more tourism industry responsibility for human resource development

Source: Forum Economic Action Plan: 1998 Review (Forum Secretariat, 1998)